

- **Our human ancestry** - getting into the current thinking about hominid evolution

Throughout this course you will be given the opportunity to put forward your own ideas and experiences via MOODLE where you will be able to post your comments and enter into a debate with your fellow students.

PRACTICAL POINTS

- To do this course electronically you'll need a computer with access to the internet. You'll also need an email address - please supply it at the time of enrolment. Units will be sent as pdf files.
- To access MOODLE we'll give you the simple instructions and a password.
- There are two books that would be very useful for this course "Introducing Palaeontology - a guide to Ancient Life" £9.99 by Patrick N Wyse Jackson (Dunedin) • "Fossil Detectives field guide" £4.99 (BBC/Open University) (These books are available from Geo Supplies)
- For the practical aspects of the course, we recommend the set of fossil replicas that go with the Fossil Detectives book - £25.95 (These materials are available from Geo Supplies)

DAY SCHOOL

We will be holding a day school for this course at the Dudley Museum, on February 19th and are looking at a second, which will be advised when this is fixed.. We encourage you to attend this day, which will be free of charge to all learners enrolled on this course at the full fee.

FIELDWORK

Whilst there are no requirements to carry out any fieldwork to complete this course, we will be running a couple of day trips to areas where there will be an emphasis on fossils. You will be advised of these and be able to join them for the special rate of £10.00 each trip.

THE COST

The online cost is £80.00 for each Part of the course and covers all the tutorials and the day school. For those learners who wish to have materials posted to them the cost is £95.00.

BOOKING

To book your place on this course you can do so via our website: www.geosupplies.co.uk or you can ring us on 0114 2455746 or you can send a cheque to the following address (made payable to "Geo Supplies Ltd"): Geo Supplies Ltd., 49 Station Road, Chapeltown, Sheffield, S35 2XE

For further details email:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Fossils for all - yes, they can be fun!



**A distance learning course for adults
commencing January 2014 (Part 2)
Tutor: Chris Darmon BSc, PGCE**

Down to Earth is a division of Geo Supplies Ltd., Sheffield S35 2XE

KEY INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Fossils for all Parts 1 & 2

LEVEL: The course is designed for adult learners who are interested in fossils and want to know more about them and their uses

TERM DATES: Part 2 begins January 2014

COURSE TUTOR: Chris Darmon BSc, PGCE

**CONTACT: email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk
or tel. 0114 245 5746**

BACKGROUND

The tutor is a trained teacher with extensive experience of teaching adults in a variety of settings including The University of Sheffield, WEA and the local authority over a period spanning 30 years. He is particularly at ease working with adults in a relaxed atmosphere without the need for large amounts of administration and assessment. He firmly believes that learning can, and should be, fun! This course is a natural extension of that work with potential students based anywhere in the UK and even beyond. This course will be hosted on MOODLE, a free to use learning platform, which you will be able to access by use of a password. You can also opt to receive materials by email or by post.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Our aim is to provide a relaxed learning environment in which we can all learn, both from the tutor and each other. In short, exactly the original WEA learning model. We hope that everyone will want to complete the tasks we set you, though nobody will be insisting that you do. Feedback and positive encouragement will always be given - we want you to gain knowledge and confidence from everything you do! We encourage you to share ideas and experiences - if you are happy to do this, it can be facilitated on MOODLE quite easily in a forum. Once again, this is down to your choice - nobody will be insisting that you do.

To protect our materials, we must ask you to agree not to share them with anyone not enrolled on the course by any means, including email. This is a condition of you enrolling on this course.

THIS COURSE

I don't have particularly happy memories of palaeontology courses at University. It was frankly a real turn off for me! I hadn't done much biology at school and the dry manner in which it was taught was so boring. Since then, I've learned that fossils can be fun, though finding a suitable cover picture for this brochure turned out to be quite difficult because, even now, palaeontologists take it all so seriously. So, if you're like me and want to know more about fossils in a more relaxed way, this course is for you. I want you to contribute to the course and have fun along the way. By the end of it we'll all be wiser and hopefully know more about fossils. I hope that you get the idea!

COURSE AIMS

- To show the range and diversity of the fossil record
- To outline the key features of the most important fossil groups

- To appreciate the length and strengths and weaknesses of the fossil record
- To outline the uses of fossils to the Earth scientist
- To examine some of the defining moments of life on Earth

COURSE CONTENT

*What follows is not intended to be prescriptive. The topics shown here will be presented over an 11-week period, commencing in January. **If you didn't do Part 1, that's not a problem, either join us at this stage, or you can catch-up by having the materials from Part 1 sent to you for an additional £45.00 (£60.00 by post).***

- **Focussing in on fossil groups** - continuing our look at fossil groups with the following:
 - The Ammonites & their relations
 - Too tiny to see - the world of microfossils
 - Dinosaurs - everybody's favourite, but how much do we really know?
 - The humble turd - the weird world of the trace fossil
- **Lagerstätten** - exceptionally preserved fossils where even the sex can be determined, we'll be taking in the Burgess Shales and an English lagerstätten.
- **An overview of the fossil record** - from the earliest lifeforms to the present day
- **Focussing in on the fossil record** - we take a look at the following in greater detail:
 - Across the Precambrian/Cambrian - the Ediacaran and Cambrian faunas, the first and second radiations
 - When life was nearly scuppered - the Permian/Triassic extinctions
 - The K/T boundary, - a truly black day for the world

